VIII. *An Account of an extraordinary Effect of* Lightning *in communicating* Magnetiſm. *Communicated by* Pierce Dod, *M. D. F. R. S. from Dr.* Cookſon *of* Wakefield *in* York-ſhire.

A Tradeſman in this Place having put up a great Number of Knives and Forks in a large Box, ſome in Caſes or Sheaths, and others not, of different Sizes, and of different Perſons making, in order to be ſent beyond Sea; and having placed the Box in the Corner of a large Room, there happen'd a ſudden Storm of Thunder, Lightning, *&c.* by which the Corner of the Room was damaged, the Box ſplit, and a good many Knives and Forks melted, the Sheaths being untouch'd. The Owner emptying the Box upon a Counter where ſome Nails lay, the Perſons who took up the Knives, that lay upon the Nails, obſerved that the Knives took up the Nails. Upon this the whole Numbers was try'd, and found to do the ſame, nay, to ſuch a degree as to take up large Nails, Packing-Needles, and other Iron Things of conſiderable Weight. Needles or other Things placed upon a Pewter-Diſh, would follow the Knife or Fork, though held under the Diſh, and would move along as the Knife or Fork was moved; with ſeveral other odd Appearances, which I won't now trouble you with, only this, that though you heat the Knives red-hot, yet their Power is ſtill the ſame when cold.

You

You may be aſſur'd of the Truth of this, having myſelf made a good many Trials of the Knives and the Forks: How they came by this magnetick Power, or how Lightning ſhould be capable of communicating ſuch a Power, is the *Quære*.

Decem. 6th,
1732.

IX. *A further Account of the extraordinary Effects of the ſame* Lightning *at* Wakefield. *By Dr.* Cookſon. *Communicated by the ſame.*

THIS Storm of Thunder and Lightning happen'd the latter End of *July*, 1731. and not only broke the Glaſs and Iron Frames of the Croſs-Chamber Windows, but at the ſame time ſplit ſome Studds in the Corner of a Wood-Houſe; and paſſing into a Room, ſplit likewiſe a large Deal Box, which ſtood in the South Corner of the Room, where the Lightning enter'd, and diſperſed a great many Dozen of Knives and Forks, which were put up in the Box, all over the Room.

Upon gathering up theſe Knives and Forks, ſome of them were melted, others ſnapp'd in ſunder; others had their Hafts burnt; others their Sheaths either ſinged or burnt; others not: But what was moſt remarkable, upon laying them on a Counter where there were Iron Nails, Rings, *&c.* it was obſerved, that when any of them were taken up, there